

June 6th 1892. Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the City Council.

Austin, Texas, June, 6th 1892.

Hon. Henry A. Linne, President of the Board of Aldermen,
Presiding.

Roll Call.
Present

Absent

Steve McLoashie

Alderman Anderson moved that Mr. Steve McLoashie
requested to act as Clerk of the Council, to enable the
City Clerk to complete the preparation of the general
appropriation ordinance.

Carried
By Alderman Platt

to amend minutes of
the 17th of May, 1892, in
that voted no to extend the
boulevard through the property of John Walsh, notwithstanding
the boundaries thereto. Walsh's. Said vote was taken *viva voce*, and not by call of the
roll.

Carried

Minutes of the 16th, 17th, & 20th of May, 1892. The minutes of the meetings of the City Council, which were held on the 16th, 17th, and 20th days of May 1892 were then adopted.

Alderman Nunn and Harmoth entered the Council and answered to their names.

Petitions &c.

Briggs. lots 6th & 7th of May, 1892. By Alderman Platt: A petition of citizens requesting
it to be purveyed that Briggs street, between Sixth and Seventh Streets,
be put in good order.

Referred

Alderman Townsend

By Alderman Nunn

Petition to George Washington No. 9. for
as a nuisance.

By Alderman Nunn, by request: A petition of

citizens stating, "That they have to complain to your

honorable body of the nuisance which is now main-

tained by one George Washington, a colored man, at

the west end of Dryansons Street on Shoe creek, in the

city of Austin, which nuisance consists of a pen, always

kept in an unclean and unhealthy condition, in which

the said Washington has and keeps a large number

of hogs, usually about one hundred." Petitioners ask

that you take such steps as may be necessary to abate

and remove said nuisance.

It was referred to the Committee on Sanitation and

Drainage.

Andrew. Dipe

A petition from Andrew Dipe, asking the Council

to do what it can to

make the water

safe for drinking.

It was referred to the Committee on Sanitation and

Drainage.

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Andrew Pipe

June 20, remitted on
rec. of Mayor.

Petition from Trustees
of the 94th Street church to be
relieved of taxes.

Referred to Com. on Claims. It was referred to the Committee on Claims and Accounts.
& Accounts. Alderman Miller entered the Council and answered to
Alderman Miller concerning his name.

The Council

Petition from citizens having property outside of the old city limits, and who
petition from citizens in due money or labor assist in working the county
roads, that road and roads for the year 1891, as directed by the county roads
be allowed in city taxes. Officers, asking that the value of the work so performed
be allowed as a credit on their city taxes for the year
named.

Referred to Committee on Claims and Accounts.
on Claims & Accounts. It was referred to the Committee on Claims and Accounts.
on Claims & Accounts. nts.

Alderman Morris and Duton entered the Council and
entered the Council. answered to their names.

Reports of Officers

Reports of City Officers.

May 1892.

Reports of the following named city officers for the month
of May, 1892, were read and referred: Jas. P. Trigle,
Chief Engineer; City Treasurer, City Clerk, City Marshal,
City Assessor and Collector, City Sexton, and City
Physician.

Committee Reports

Street Committee.

Committee Reports.

By Alderman Nurse, for the Street Committee, to whom
was referred a petition of citizens concerning the
continuation of the grading of Congress Avenue to
Sixteenth Street, and the removal of the house standing
in the center of said street, and the continuation of
said street for a few hundred feet to intersect
Congress Avenue to Lempasas Street. Submitted a report which states:
19th St. removal of "That in connection with the City Engineer the matter
House & continuation to embraced in said petition has been considered by
Lempasas St. us and we here to append the plan made by the
City Engineer, showing the property necessary to be
condemned in extending the street so as to intersect
Lempasas street as petitioned for. The City is not now
in condition to undertake the outlay of money \$1,000,-
estimated necessary to acquire the property to extend
the street, nor do we deem it at present advisable
to continue the grading, as petitioned for. We
recommend the petition be not granted.

The report was adopted.

By Alderman Nurse, for the Street Committee, to

Street Committee whom was referred a resolution concerning the condition of the railroad crossings of the streets, submitted a report thereon, which states that the City Engineer has notified the respective railroad officers of the Austin and Northwestern and the Illinois railroads, respectively, of the condition of said street crossings, and requested them to immediately comply with said resolution.

On motion the report was received.

Alderman Heyerman Alderman Heyerman entered the Council and announced entered the Committee to his name.

Street Committee.

On obstructions of E. of certain property for that purpose, presented a report 1st St. &c.

Mrs. J. J. Houston
George Graham
L. D. Donchard
V. M. Blumacher
own. property to be
acquired, etc.

By Alderman Name, for the Street Committee, to whom was referred a resolution concerning the removal of obstructions from East Third street and the acquisition of certain property for that purpose, presented a report thereon which states: "That with the assistance of the City Engineer, who has made a survey and plat of said property to be acquired by the city in widening said street, they have investigated said matter and find that Mrs. J. J. Houston holds title deeds for lot No 1. - we have not been able to see her - Mr. George Graham who owns lot No 2 will sell twenty-seven feet by forty-eight feet the necessary amount. Lot No 3. L. D. Donchard owner, has already been acquired by the city. Lots Nos 4, 5 & 6, 27 x 144 feet, can be acquired for \$10.00 the same owned by Mr. Blumacher. The recommended, the acquiring of said property if Mrs Houston's interest can be bought."

Alderman Platt motion
to table last in
Report adopted
Years

Alderman Platt moves to lay the report on the table.
Last.

The report was then adopted by the following vote:
Years - Alderman Anderson, Asmann, Glass, Graham,
Name, Jackson, Linne, Morris, Petachke, North, Schubert,
Shelley, Townsend - 13.

Nays.

Street Committee.

Report on the Grading
of Guadalupe St.
from 10th to 13th Sts.

Petition not granted.

Nays - Alderman Kelchum, Miller, Weston, Platt
Dutton, Hartman, Heyerman - 7.

By Alderman Name, for the Street Committee, to whom was referred a petition of citizens concerning the grading of that portion of Guadalupe Street, running from 10th to 13th streets, so as to conform to the grade thereto now established by ordinance, offered a report thereon which states: "That they have considered the matter and while your committee are of the opinion that the grading should be done, but in as much as the street in question is now in good condition, and the resources of the city are now taxed to its utmost with street work in other portions of the city, where the same is worse needed, we do not think it advisable to undertake the work petitioned for at this time. Therefore recommends that the petition be not granted."

The report was adopted.

Alderman Heyerman was excused from further attendance upon the session.

Ald. Debnide entered. Alderman Schneider entered the Council and answered to his name.

Street Committee

Rep. on Petition of
G. W. Losongue
& not granted.

San Antonio & 16th sts.

By Alderman Neune, for the Street Committee, to whom was referred a petition from G. W. Losongue asking the Council to so work the streets at the corner of San Antonio and 16th streets as not to injure his property, submitted a report thereon which states: "That they have given the matter consideration, and upon the investigation and report of the City Engineer, we think the City is not liable, and if liable, the expense of doing so being very great, it is not now expedient for the City to undertake to change the natural flow of the water across the lot of Mr Losongue. The master complained of arising from the natural flow of the water across said lot. We therefore recommend that the petition be not granted."

The report was adopted. By Alderman Neune, for the Street Committee, to whom was referred a petition of citizens requesting the opening of a street, the prolongation of Ninth Street, over and through our lot No 11 in division B, and the protest of Henry Osay against such opening, offered a report which recommends that the street be opened provided land thereon can be acquired by donation or otherwise without costs to the City.

The report was adopted. By Alderman Townsend, for the Police Committee, to whom was referred the report of the City Marshal for the month of April, 1892, presented a report thereon, which states that they have carefully examined same and find it to be correct.

Com. on Claims & Accounts. By Alderman Shelley, for majority of Committee on Claims and Accounts, to whom was referred the claim of W. B. Kinney for damages to stone wall on lot No 4, in block No. 47, by reason of the change in grade of Fourth Street, and the closing of the gutter along the south line of said lot, which existed before the change in grade was made, submitted a report thereon which states: "That upon investigation they find the original surface of Fourth street is as below the level of lot No 4; that the grade as it has been established is several feet above the level of said lot, and the gutter, which it is claimed formerly existed along the south line, is now closed, the change in the surface of said street extending up the south line of said lot; that a stone wall had been constructed along the west line of the lot, which was necessary to protect it from overflow in the branch running along said west line; that whatever volume of water that may fall on the surface of Fourth street is thrown on to said

N. B. Kinney

lot and against said wall and that said wall was injured as claimed. Your committee therefore recommends that the claim be allowed.

Alderman Ziller, of the Committee on Claims and Accounts, to whom was referred the above named claim, offered a minority report thereon which states: "That originally the grade of the street was such that it was almost impassable, and that by reason of the grade as now established, it is in reasonably good condition; that by reason of the grading of the street it has enhanced the value of the property as stated above.

"Your committee, upon consultation with the City Engineer, find that the sidewalk of said property is very much below the grade of the topographical survey as adopted by the City Council, and by reason of said sidewalk being below the grade, the water ran in said lot and caused the masonry to fall. Under our city charter the City is prohibited from building sidewalks, walls, etc., for private individuals, and as the falling in of the masonry would not have occurred had the sidewalk been built up to the grade as established by the city, your committee fails to see on what grounds the city is liable and moves therefore recommends that the claim be not allowed."

Alderman Neumann moved the adoption of the majority report.

Alderman Ziller moved as a substitute that the minority report be adopted.

The substitute was lost by a rising vote of 6 to 11. The question having recurred upon the adoption of the majority report, the same was adopted.

By Alderman North, for the Committee on Ordinances, to whom was referred the bond of M. Butler and papers in reference to opening a street across the lands of Mr. Paggi, offered a report, which states:

"1. We are unable to determine whether the executory contract tendered by M. Butler would be valid in law in Texas.

"2. We recommend in lieu of said contract, M. Butler deposit with J. S. Myrick the sum of \$250, in cash, out of which said J. S. Myrick shall pay all costs, expenses and damages which may be incurred by the City of Austin in the condemnation and opening of said street, said city of Austin not to be at any cost or expense whatever in this matter, whereupon condemnation proceedings may be commenced".

The report was adopted.

By Alderman North, for the Ordinances Committee, to whom was referred the subject of prescribing suitable regulations for the traffic over the bridge at the foot of Congress Avenue, presented a report recommending the passage of an ordinance entitled:

"An Ordinance regulating traffic on the bridge across

Alonso J. Clark
Minority report.

Majority report adopted

Ordinance Committee

Report of, on Bond
of M. Butler & on
right of way through
lands of M. Paggi
with recommendations.

Ordinance Committee

Regulations for traffic
over bridge -

The Colorado river at the foot of Congress Avenue, and Prescribing Penalties for the violation of its provisions. The report was laid over, to be taken up with the ordinances named therein.

Hospital Committee. Alderman Harmath, on the Hospital Committee, presented a report from the resident physicians of the City and County Hospital, which recommends that private rooms be furnished at the hospital, for pay patients, and that an appropriation of \$250. be made for that purpose; and also a report from the Hospital Committee concurring in the recommendation.

Deferred to com. on Finance. Alderman Stark moved that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee, with instructions to ascertain if the sum required has been received from pay patients.

Carried.

Water & Light. Alderman Anderson, on the Committee on Water and Light, who were instructed, by resolution, to ascertain from the Austin Gaslight and Coal Company as to whether it could furnish lights to the City, did so & Coal Co. A somewhat敷衍地 presented a report, which states that the duty has been performed, and that the proportioning of the said company is submitted with said report. The report further states, that after carefully examining the corporation, as well as the subject, the Committee is of the opinion that it is best not to make a change at this time.

Adopted.

Unfinished Business.

Unfinished Business.

Ordinance Committee. The report of the Committee on Ordinances, in reference to regulating traffic on the bridge across the Colorado river, was taken up with the ordinance above named. Regulation of traffic on the bridge across the Colorado river was read the first time, after which motions were made to suspend the rules and place the same on its second reading, which was adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the whole council.

The ordinance was accordingly read, after which Alderman Nitzeke moved to amend the same by striking out Section 5. which prohibits any person from riding a bicycle over said bridge.

The amendment was lost by the following vote:

Yea. - Alderman Anderson, Adams, Glass, Muus, and Nitzeke, Duton, Zeller - 7.

Nay. - Alderman Graham, Jackson, Ketcham, Liver, Miller, Morris, Stetson, Stark, Platt, Schneiders, Schubert, Shelley, Townsend, Harmath - 14.

Alderman Zeller moved to amend Section 1. by striking out the words "Twenty-five," and, inserting in lieu thereof, the word, "twelve".

Alderman Schubert moved, he moved, the motion by striking out the word, "twelve", and, inserting instead thereof, the word "fifteen".

Sec. 1.

Accepted.

The amendment then prevailed by a voting rate of 13. to 7. A motion was made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading, which was adopted by the following vote:

Yea.— Alderman Anderson, Graham, Jackson, Ketchum, Linn, Miller, Morris, North, Platt, Schneider, Schubert, Shelley, Townsend, Warmath, Zillie. — 15.

Nay.— Alderman Assmann, Glass, Hause, Newton, Pitschke, Dutton. — 6.

The ordinance was accordingly read, and on motion passed,

New Business

\$ 3727.74

New Business.

By Alderman North: An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$ 3727.74 for the purpose of paying approved accounts.

Approved Accounts. It. was read the first time, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its second reading, which was adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the whole Council.

The ordinance was accordingly read, after which Alderman North moved to amend the caption and Section 1. of the \$ 12.50 to pay A. Schubert ordinance by adding the sum of \$ 12.00 to pay A. Schubert for winding the City clock during the quarter ending May 30, 1892.

Carried.

Alderman Hause was excused from further attendance upon the session.

Motions were then made to suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third reading, and that it do pass, both of which were adopted by the following vote:

Yea.— Alderman Anderson, Assmann, Glass, Graham Jackson, Ketchum, Linn, Miller, Morris, Newton Pitschke, North, Platt, Schneider, Shelley, Dutton, Townsend, Warmath, Zillie. — 19.

Nay.— Alderman Schneider.

By Alderman North: A resolution to acquire lands for the extension of the boulevard leading to the dam on the Colorado River, above the City of Austin.

It. was read the first time, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the same on its second reading, which was adopted by the following vote.

Yea.— Alderman Anderson, Assmann, Glass, Graham Jackson, Ketchum, Linn, Miller, Newton, Pitschke, North, Platt, Schneider, Schubert, Dutton, Townsend, Warmath, Zillie. — 18.

Nay.— Alderman Shelley.

Carried.— Alderman Morris, who is attorney for Mr. James Bassett.

The resolution was accordingly read, after which a motion was made to suspend the rules and place the same on the third reading, which was adopted by

the following vote:

Yea. — Aldermen Anderson, Asmann, Glass, Graham Jackson, Ketchum, Linne, Miller, Newton, Pitschke Stork, Platt, Schneider, Schubel, Dutton, Townsend, Warmath, Ziller. — 18.

Nay — Alderman Shelley.

Decided Alderman Morris for the reason given above. The resolution was then read a third time and on motion passed by a viva voce vote.

Alderman Platt requested to be recorded as voting no, on the final passage of the resolution.

By Alderman Morris: An ordinance appropriating the sum of \$2,945.43 for the purpose of paying estimate No 19. of work done and material furnished by Bernardo Corrigan, during the month of May, 1892, under his contract with the City of Austin, dated November 7, 1890. It was read the first time, after which motions were made to suspend the rules and place the same on its second and third readings and that it do now pass, all of which were adopted by the following vote:

Yea. — Aldermen Anderson, Asmann, Glass, Graham, Jackson, Ketchum, Linne, Miller, Morris, Newton, Pitschke, Stork, Platt, Schneider, Schubel, Dutton, Townsend, Warmath, Ziller. — 20.

Ordinance granting By Alderman Stork: An ordinance granting the right of way to S. Deyo Van Lebeck of a highway in the city of Austin, to S. Deyo Van Lebeck, his associates and assigns, for a steam railroad to be built from the western part of Travis County into the city of Austin.

It was read the first time, after which motions were made to suspend the rules and place the same on its second and third readings, both of which were adopted by the following vote.

Yea. — Aldermen Anderson, Asmann, Glass, Graham, Jackson, Ketchum, Linne, Miller, Morris, Newton, Pitschke, Stork, Platt, Schneider, Schubel, Dutton, Shelley, Townsend, Warmath, Ziller. — 20.

The ordinance was accordingly read and on motion passed.

By Alderman Morris: Resolved, That the City will pay from this time forward for the hydrant located on block 5, division A near the old mill, at the rate of \$50. per annum until further notice to the Water, Light and Power Company, said hydrant having been placed there and paid for by private citizens before that territory became a part of the city, and ever since.

Alderman Dutton moved to refer it to the Committee on Water and Lights.

Lost.

It was then moved that the resolution be adopted, which was lost by a rising vote of 9 to 10.

By Alderman Morris: Resolved, That the tax assessors

old Hall. no.

"Dam"

#2.945⁴³
appropriated to pay
Estimate # 19.

right of way to

S. Deyo Van Lebeck

for a steam railroad to be

built from the western part of Travis County into the city

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J. D. Day, Jr.

Relationship between
Vendor and buyer.

against J. D. Doxey for vendor liens notes on 71 acres of land out of the G. W. Spear league executed in a trade which was canceled, he and the same is hereby released as the land which Mr. Doxey still holds after cancelling the sale thereof is still subject to the tax on the lands; provided that this release as to the notes shall not take effect until said Doxey shall pay the taxes due on said lands.

Adopted

Printing Committee
on
Printing of Minutes

Alderman Ziller moved that the Committee on Printing be instructed to inquire into the advisability of abolishing either the printing of the minutes in pamphlet form or the synopsis.

Carried

State Teachers Ass'n
invited to Austin in 1893.

By Alderman Morris: Resolved by the City Council of the City of Austin, that the State Teacher's Association be hereby invited to hold the annual meeting for the year 1893, in the City of Austin, and that the City Clerk furnish the secretary of the association with a copy of this resolution.

Adopted

R. A. Glume
judgment referred to Finance Com.

Alderman Graham moved that the matter of settling the judgment of R. A. Glume against the city be referred to the Finance Committee for investigation and report.

Carried

Reports on location
of Reservoir to be printed -
by Professors -

Alderman North moved that the reports of Drs. Swearingen, Wooster, McNaughlin and Payton and Profs. Edgar Everhard, A. W. Simmonds and T. O'Farrell in reference to location of reservoir be received and printed in pamphlet form in the minutes of the City Council.

Carried

Reservoir

University of Texas.

Laboratory of Chemistry

Austin, Texas May 14th 1892.

Dr. Swearingen, Wooster and McNaughlin Committee on Reservoir Site:

Gentlemen — The undersigned beg leave to make the following report with regards to the selection of a site for the reservoir:

Reports of Profs.
Everhard, Simmonds
& Taylor as to
location No.

From an engineering standpoint, Prof. Payton is decidedly of the opinion that the upper part of Bee Creek is by far the better place. Not only would the probable cost of constructing the dam be less, but also better ground for the laying of the masonry can be found there. Prof. Simmonds states that the geological formation is the same in both places examined and that leakage would not take place in one more than in the other. For these reasons we are in favor of building the reservoir on Bee creek. At the same time we consider it a wise plan that the whole watershed of the proposed site shall be owned by the city and that it should be thoroughly protected from contamination by stock or by man. From a sanitary view, no harm can result to the water from the natural drainage of the watershed into the reservoir.

Reservoir At the same time, Prof Taylor believes that care should be taken in constructing the dam strong enough to resist any floods resulting from an extraordinary downpour of rain.

With regard to sanitary conditions exercising an influence on the purity of the water supply, we beg leave to call your attention to the following facts.

In the first place, the condition of the water will be materially altered from what it is at present. Now, the water is drawn from a rapidly flowing river in which even in summer, there is to be found scarcely a trace of organic matter, living or dead. When the dam and reservoir are built, however, the water will be drawn from standing water and of course must remain standing in the reservoir with but comparatively little change.

Under these circumstances there will certainly be every opportunity for vegetable growth, a large amount of which is bound to influence the purity of the water supply.

With these data before us, it seems best to advise the construction of such a reservoir as will expose the least superficial area and one also that will be no larger than necessary to meet the present demands of the city, because often the water is changed in the reservoir the less likely it will be to suffer from stagnation. The site of the dam for the reservoir on Bee creek as proposed by the Mayor, seems to be objectionable because it will produce a large lake with little depth, but covering a large tract of land. If the dam be built on this point, it is almost certain that the water supply of the city will be vitiated because every condition will be present to encourage vegetation, viz.: the exposure of a large surface of water and also the holding of an immense reservoir of water which is rarely changed and which is apt to become stagnant.

For these reasons, it would be best to construct a reservoir smaller than the one proposed and to construct it on the northeast branch of the creek several hundred yards above the site of the proposed dam.

This will give a reservoir ample for the needs of the city, and much larger than is used for many cities of greater population. In such a reservoir the water can not become stagnant, nor will vegetation be rampant. Another consideration can be urged for the smaller reservoir is this, that by so doing the City can easily provide "settling reservoirs" whenever occasion requires.

The configuration of the lands on Bee creek makes an ideal site for such "settling reservoirs". Both the northeast and south west branches can be used, for this purpose, while below them can be built a third reservoir to receive the "poison water". This of course, would not be available at present, but if in the future the City becomes of great size, it may be necessary.

With, great respect, we remain

Report of Prof's
Graham, Demond
& Taylor.

Reservoir

Yours truly,
 Edgar Overholt
 A. M. Dimonds, Gen. E.
 H. U. Taylor, Gen. E.

Austin, Texas, May 14, 1892.

Dr. A. M. DeWeavergew, Chairman Committee on Reservoir.

Dear Sir:

At your request, as a member of your committee, and having with the committee examined the two sites proposed for a reservoir by the city, I beg leave herewith to submit my individual views as to the merits or adaptability of each, looked at "from the stand point of health and sanitation."

In my opinion a reservoir can be constructed on either of the two sites indicated, that will protect its contained water from pollution from any source that may be incident to the locality.

In other words, if the water that is pumped into the reservoir, whether this is constructed on one or the other sites, is pure, it will remain so, as there is nothing in either locality calculated to be the source of danger that cannot be easily remedied.

The sources of dangerous pollution, to which most attention was given, they being the most prominent and dangerous to which a reservoir at either point would be exposed

An. J. M. McLaughlin,
report.

1st. Chemical agencies incident to the soil; 2nd decaying of poisonous vegetation; 3rd, the excreta of human beings. The extent of the danger of pollution by any of the above named means is in proportion to the size of the watershed, the character of the soil, and of the vegetation which it produces. That I deem to be more potent as a source of danger of pollution than all the rest is occupancy of any portion of the watershed by human habitation, or carrying on any kind of industry where human beings much assemble.

The site on the Taylor Property has a very small watershed. This, in fact, a cove surrounded on three sides by precipitous hillsides of limestone, which grow but little vegetation, and which are absolutely unsuited for human habitation.

The site on the Brackenridge Property is also a cove, surrounded by mountains. It is a small valley, in which originate and through which run three separate branches of Bee Creek. The watershed here is quite large amounting to — acres of land. This is formed of hard, lime rock, overlaid by considerable soil, which grows trees, grass and bushes in sufficient profusion to make the scenery beautiful and picturesque. Nothing in the character of the soil or in the vegetation which covers this watershed was found that would, in my opinion, make the rain-water which it would gather other than pure and healthful.

Reservoir

From a sanitary point this is a very desirable site for the proposed reservoir, provided the city, as owner, would securely fence and keep under proper control the entire watershed of this valley; and provided, further, that the alluvium and growing vegetation within the limits of the proposed reservoir be thoroughly removed, and the entire grounds be kept clean, free from dead woods or leaves; that the reservoir be properly protected against the entrance of animals, and the accumulation of leaves, and further, that no dwellings be allowed within the watershed and above the dam. If these precautions be observed, it is my opinion that the rainfall upon the watershed would furnish pure and healthful water for domestic purposes.

There is an important sanitary advantage in this location. By reference to the engineer's map it will be seen that the other two branches of Bee creek furnish admirable sites for reservoirs, and that these could be constructed at a slight cost. There is an important sanitary advantage in having more than one reservoir from which Austin could obtain her water. It is well known that during floods in the river its water is very muddy and unhealthful. With

Dr. J. W. McLaughlin one reservoir muddy and unhealthy water will, at times, report on how to be used for domestic purposes. With two reservoirs this will be avoided, and drinking water clean as crystal and free from danger can always be had.

In this connection, I would call attention to a danger that may grow and develop large proportions in the future if not properly guarded against. The danger of water pollution, above the dam. Of course, if the river becomes contaminated on polluted no sanitary precautions taken in the location of the reservoir or its management will protect against danger.

On chartanques on Sanitariums on private residences which may, in the future, be erected on the river above the dam are, allowed to empty their sewage matters into the river on its tributaries; water pollution of a dangerous character will almost certainly follow. History has proven this to be a dangerous practice, and a frequent means of spreading typhoid fever and cholera. Mind, therefore, earnestly suggest that all necessary measures be taken, if not already done, to protect the city and its people from this possible danger.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. W. McLaughlin, M.D.

To the Hon. Board of Public Works:

Hallman: - In accordance with your usual resolutions, I, as an individual, member of the Committee on Health and Sanitation, appointed by your body to inspect the two prospective sites for a city reservoir, respectfully submit the following report:

Besides this committee, and according to your suggestion,

Reservoir

we employed the services of three professors of the University, whose scientific knowledge makes them proficient in matters pertaining to water sanitation and supply. Their report to us accompanies and constitutes a part of the report of this committee.

Together with the other members of the committee, and with Mayor McDonald and Mr. Taylor of your board, I visited on Tuesday, the 9th inst. the place indicated in your resolution and designated as the Brackenridge and Taylor locations. In my opinion, either one of the two places under consideration is susceptible of complete sanitation under well defined provisions, strictly and properly adhered to. On several reasons, however, I would express favor for and recommend the Brackenridge location. On my judgment it is more accessible, and can be rendered equally as pure and free from all contamination, if it is practical to comply with the following requisites.

Purchase the entire water-shed indicated by the dotted lines on your engineer's map. Enclose the same with a strong fence so as to keep off all stock and intrusion of every kind calculated to pollute the soil and secondarily the reservoir.

No buildings should be permitted inside the enclosure of a character to render impure the drainage into the reservoir. The trees and vegetation within and for thirty or forty feet of the water's edge should be removed root and branch; and I would also recommend that a netted wire fence be placed just outside the water line and extending down to the ground so as to keep out from the water all small animals, and prevent all leaves or other vegetable matter from washing or blowing into the reservoir. Properly trim up all living trees beyond the forty foot line and remove all the fallen or dead ones and other decaying vegetation from the entire water-shed; and as soon as practical, sod all the enclosed grounds with Bermuda grass so far as it can be grown upon the soil, and in time, I think when enclosed from stock and kept damp by the moisture arising from the water spreads over the entire area of the water-shed.

By compliance with these requirements, it is my opinion that the water in the reservoir will be pure and healthful and all water draining into the reservoir from the water-shed will be purer in character than that from the water-shed of the Colorado river itself, and equal to any portion of the celebrated Croton water-shed which supplies water to the City of New York. Should the water become impure in the reservoir by the loss of its free oxygen from stagnation, that condition can be obviated or removed, by agitation or forcing air into the water. This could, of course, be connected through the agency of the pumping process connected with the filling of the reservoir.

I would further state that the grounds within the watershed

Dr. J. D. Wooster
report on.

(Reserve) Furnish two other points (as shown upon your map) where additional reservoirs can be constructed to connect with the same main.

It is found necessary to secure clean water to the city, these points can be utilized with limited expense, so if need be, a clean and salted pool of water would be subject to use in place of the muddy water now in use by the city. With these aids by elevating the dam of the proposed reservoir the water supply can be increased so as to furnish water to a population ten times the present population of Austin.

Besides all these advantages in favor of this locality, Dr. J. D. Woolsey understood it can be secured with less expense to the report city than the Taylor location.

In conclusion, I would call your attention to the importance of protecting and securing the purity of the water above your dam.

The water sheds for thirty or forty miles up the Colorado is wonderfully pure, but if chataqua grounds and other resorts are allowed without some provision for properly disposing of all refuse matter, the present purity of the waters of your beautiful Colorado will become contaminated before it reaches the pure presents of your contemplated reservoir.

Very truly and respectfully
Thos. D. Woolsey, M.D.

A committee appointed by the Chairman of the Boards of Public Works under resolution, asking that Doctors Deewer-ingen, McLaughlin and Woolsey, Professors Everhard Taylor and Dimonds of the University, and Dr. M. A. Taylor from the Board constitute a committee to visit the several sites, and report to the Board of Public Works the best location for the city reservoir to supply pure water, met at the appointed time and made a careful examination of the two proposed locations and by agreement each make an individual report from the stand point of sanitation. Therefore, I beg leave to submit the following:

Your committee first visited what is known as the Taylor Tracts about three-fourths of a mile North-west from the dam. The altitude there is a body 320 feet above natural low water level, and the spot selected by the engineers you ask to inspect is a natural cave walled in by the rocky walls of a deep ravine. This place is almost free from surface vegetation, and with the rocky cliffs on two sides seems formed, by nature, for just such a reservoir as the city requires.

The sharp border of the ridge that divides the mountain creek, renders this place almost, free from water sheds or vegetable growth of any kind. The bottom of this gash is partially filled, with broken limestone rocks, with scarcely a trace of vegetable matter to contaminate

Dr. M. A. Taylor's report.

Reservoir

The water, and at a small cost a solid rock bottom could be had for a deep reservoir of sufficient capacity for the city's needs. By building a dam across the opening of this gully a splendid reservoir could be made giving great depth of water with but comparatively small surface exposed to the sun.

In my opinion the Taylor tract furnished by far the best location for the reservoir, both from a sanitary and economical standpoint.

The second place visited by your committee is known as the Brackenridge tract, and is a greater distance from the town than the first one named.

This is a basin formed by the junction of two small streams with an elevation somewhat less than the former one described above.

The site for a reservoir here is naturally much larger, with a large amount of timber growth making a water shed of about 200 acres. The valley selected for the reservoir proper will include some ten or twelve acres of land, timbered and covered in most part with gravel and soil ranging from one to five or six feet in depth before the bed rock can be reached. Some of the chief trouble here, from a stand-point of sanitation would be its large water-shed, the general growth of timber and vegetable matter, the large surface of water that would be exposed to the sun and general shallowness of water in reservoir. The large surface and shallowness of reservoir would cause a much greater amount of evaporation.

The effects of the sun would keep the general temperature of the water much above that of a reservoir of greater depth and deep surface, like that which would be constructed at the Taylor tract just above mentioned.

The border of such a large sheet of water would be a fruitful source of vegetable growth, which in turn would attract insects and birds, etc., with their droppings, all combining to impregnate the water with unhealthy substances.

Even if these objections could be overcome, the immense water-shed would be a source of large expense to the City. The removal of timber and brushy growths would be considerable, and all the land not covered by water should be nicely sodded with grass, and the entire tract of two hundred acres leased in. The cost of purchasing this tract very naturally, would be much greater than the smaller one.

The above are some of the reasons that suggest themselves to my mind why the upper and smaller tract would be much better for the location of our reservoir than the larger one just described.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

M. A. Taylor

Austin, Texas, May 16th, 1892

Wm. John McDonald, Chairman Board of Public Works.
Austin, Texas;

Reservoir

Dear Sir:—On compliance with request of yours, Board of Public Works, "that Doctors R. M. Swearinger, J. D. Hooton and J. W. McCaughey compose from a stand-point of health and sanitation the Taylor and Brackenridge proposed sites for location of a reservoir, and report in writing their conclusions in the premises," I respectfully submit the following individual report:

The Taylor site, from a stand-point of health exclusively, I think, possesses superior natural advantages to the Brackenridge site.

This is situated in a cove of the mountain, with high abrupt rocky sides that will circumscribe the boundary of the reservoir, to at least one-half the dimensions of the boundary of the Brackenridge site; thereby increasing the depth of water, giving a smaller surface for sun-heating and evaporation, and diminishing the bottom-area that must necessarily furnish such a rich soil for aquatic growths.

The water-shed or drainage-land into the Taylor reservoir only contains a few acres, and its geological formation will not permit shrubs or trees on any kind of soil.

On rank vegetation. Contamination of water in a reservoir at the Taylor site by surface, storm-water, or by sub-soil percolation, would, without artificial barriers, be almost impossible.

I respectfully submit however, that the natural advantages above suggested do not, from hygienic considerations alone, make the Taylor site altogether preferable to the Brackenridge site; for the disadvantages of the second named can be overcome by sanitary engineers, and the whole question of selection be reduced into one of economy and convenience.

The ownership of the water-shed land of the Brackenridge site, amounting to about two hundred acres by the city and the exclusion by ordinance of all settlements upon said water-shed that might be causes of pollution, and the erection of an embankment immediately around the reservoir, would in my judgment, give all needful protection to the water in said reservoir.

As there was a difference of opinion as to the scope and limit of the subject matter to be considered by this committee, I requested that each member reduce to writing his individual opinions and conclusions, and in presenting the individual opinions and conclusions hereinafter presented, I desire to express thanks to Professor Overholt, Taylor and Simonds of the State University, who accompanied us, for valuable assistance given, and I hope the honor of transmitting with our reports, a book also from these distinguished gentlemen.

Very truly yours,

R. M. Swearinger, M. D.
(Physician).

Dr. McDonald.

Pres. Board Pub. Works. Hon. Board of Public Works; Austin, Texas:

Austin, Texas, June 6th, 1892.
 Gentlemen: — Believing that action should be had at
 the earliest possible moment in the settlement of damages
 recommended as for lands that will be overflowed by the building of the
 to overflowing lands dam & respectfully make the following recommendations
 1st. That the Boards accept at once the propositions those
 parties which were acted upon favorably by the special com-
 mittee, namely, Burroughs & Middle, A. S. Champion, J. A.
 (Burroughs & Middle & N. Thurmond) and Steele and Sparks and that the City
 of Austin & Environs be requested to make an appropriation of \$845.00
 to pay for same, with authority to have deeds executed
 to the City. Also that the proposal of the Austin Real
 Estate Improvement Co., to donate their submerged lands
 to the city be formally accepted.

2nd. That a Financial Agent be employed to represent
 the City, with power to act as Arbitrator for the City
 in all cases where the owners of lands agree to arbitra-
 tion, and to act as agent of the City in endeavoring to
 such owners as refuse to arbitrate such sums as the
 Boards may deem just and proper, in order that
 condemnation proceedings may be instituted.

3rd. That the engineering force of the Boards be
 directed to make surveys and mark the flood line
 on the Bee Creek property and at such other places
 as may not have said flood line already estab-
 lished.

4th. That authority be granted to receive proposals
 for clearing off all timber and brush on the Bee Creek
 property, the tracts that have been donated, those that
 may be required as above recommended and those
 where the owners have given permission for the remo-
 val of the timber and brush.
 I have had a form of deed printed for release
 for lands on the river front, and everything is now
 ready for proceeding with the works.

Respectfully

John. Mc. Donald,

President Board of Public Works.

Adjourned

The Council then adjourned

Milton Mayne,

City Clerk